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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

~~INTELLIGENCE REPORT~~

COUNTRY USSR

DATE:

SUBJECT Ecclesiastical Matters

INFO.

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ORIGIN

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SUPPLEMENT

The Patriarch of all Russians, Alexis, is anxious to convoke the Oecumenical Council in Moscow and plans to extend an invitation to the Patriarch of Istanbul and other autocephalous churches. It is, however, stated that Patriarch Alexis lacks the authority to convoke such a council, for such authority is vested only in the Patriarch of Istanbul. It is believed that if Alexis issues such an invitation it will be rejected both by the Phanar Patriarchate and all other autocephalous churches, such as Alexandria, Jerusalem, and Antioch, which are not politically under Russian influence.

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DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

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